

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-35 (Canceled)

36. (Withdrawn) An isolated infectious respiratory syncytial virus particle which comprises a respiratory syncytial virus antigenome or genome containing at least one L gene mutation, wherein said L gene mutation encodes an amino acid exchange from a charged amino acid to an alanine.

37. (Withdrawn) The isolated infectious respiratory syncytial virus particle of claim 36, wherein said mutation is selected from a group consisting of A33, A73, A171, A81, A185, A91, A101, A192, A11, A111, A121, A133, A141, A25, A45, A153, A162, A201, A211, A221, A231, A241, A57, A65, A251, A261, AD11, AD21, AD31, F1, and F13.

38. (Withdrawn) An isolated infectious respiratory syncytial virus particle which comprises a respiratory syncytial virus antigenome or genome containing at least one L gene mutation, wherein said L gene mutation encodes an amino acid exchange from a cysteine to an amino acid selected from a group comprising glycine, valine, aspartic acid, and alanine.

39. (Withdrawn) The isolated infectious respiratory syncytial virus particle of claim 38, wherein said cysteine is selected from a group consisting of cysteine at amino acid position 781, 924, 1183, 1347, and 1604.

Claims 40 and 41 (Canceled)

42. (Amended) An isolated attenuated ~~infectious~~ respiratory syncytial virus particle which comprises a respiratory syncytial virus antigenome or genome containing a C-

terminal truncation of the M2-1 protein, wherein the virus exhibits a lower degree of virulence as compared to a wild type virus.

43. (Previously Amended) The isolated attenuated respiratory syncytial virus particle of claim 42, wherein the stop codon causing said C-terminal truncation is at a position selected from a group consisting of nucleotide position 7987-7989, 7990-7992, 8050-8052, 8053-8055, 8137-8139, and 8140-8142.

44. (Amended) An isolated attenuated respiratory syncytial virus particle which comprises a respiratory syncytial virus antigenome or genome containing at least one M2-1 gene mutation, wherein (i) ~~at least one M2-1 gene mutation encodes an amino acid exchange from a cysteine to an amino acid selected from a group consisting of comprising~~ glycine, valine, aspartic acid, and alanine at amino acid position 96, ~~and~~ (ii) wherein cysteine residues at positions 7, 15, and 21 are retained, ~~and~~ (iii) wherein the virus exhibits a lower degree of virulence as compared to a wild type virus.

45. (New) An isolated attenuated respiratory syncytial virus particle which comprises a respiratory syncytial virus antigenome or genome comprising an M2-1 gene mutation at amino acid position 96, and wherein the virus exhibits a lower degree of virulence as compared to a wild type virus.

46. (New) The isolated attenuated respiratory virus particle of claim 45, wherein the M2-1 gene mutation at amino acid position 96 encodes an amino acid exchange from a cysteine to an amino acid selected from a group consisting of glycine, valine, aspartic acid, and alanine.

47. (New) The virus particle of claim 45, wherein the respiratory syncytial virus antigenome or genome further comprises a truncation of the M2-1 gene.

48. (New) The virus particle of claim 46, wherein the stop codon causing said C-terminal truncation is at a position selected from a group consisting of nucleotide position 7987-7989, 7990-7992, 8050-8052, 8053-8055, 8137-8139, and 8140-8142.

49. (New) The virus particle of claim 45, wherein the Cys3His motif at the N-terminus of the M2-1 protein is maintained.

50. (New) The virus particle of claim 43, wherein the stop codon causing said C-terminal truncation is at nucleotide position 8137-8139.